Setting up of Food Banks

2042. SHRIYADLAPATIVENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to making the country hunger-free, Government propose to set-up Food Bank for the poor people;

(b) whether a target date for making India hunger-free by 15th August, 2007 has been fixed; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) A Central Sector Scheme for the setting up of Village Grain Banks in tribal villages was launched in 1996-97. It is a continuing scheme, under which there is no target date for making India hunger-free.

The Village Grain Bank Scheme was launched in selected areas identified by the Central Planning Committee (CPC) as a preventive measure against the death of tribal people due to starvation. The scheme provides that villagers in identified areas can form a committee and set up Grain Banks. This Ministry provides a one-time grant for setting up Grain Banks with an allocation of 100 kg. of locally consumed food grains per family. The members borrow from this bank in time of need and repay after the harvest or on getting income as wages. Under the scheme, funds are released to the State Governments through TRIFED.The CPC has identified 370 blocks in 52 districts in 13 States for implementation of the scheme. However, the list is indicative and the State Governments can select villages/blocks outside these areas, if considered necessary. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs. 1024.37 lakh has so far been released to the States for establishment of 1876 Grain Banks.

Utilization of funds under special Central Assistance

†2043. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States including Chhattisgarh which have been allocated funds for the programmes to be conducted under the Special

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Central Assistnace for the years 2001 and 2002, togetherwith the amount of funds allocated;

(b) whether proper utilization of allocated funds has been made within the stipulated period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, togetherwith the guidelines issued in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIJUAL ORAM): (a) to (d)The funds released to the State Governments including Chhattisgarh under Special Central Assistance during 2000-2001 and 2001 -2002 and the position of utilization reported is given in the Statement enclosed *(See* below). The States take some time in incurring and reporting expenditure, which also depends on the nature of the schemes. The Ministry, however, takes, the following steps to ensure proper utilization of funds by the States/UTs.

1. Utilisation Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds;

2. Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained and reviewed;

3. Central Government Officers visit the States/UTs along with local officials to ascertain the progress of implementation of schemes/projects;

4. Meetings/conferences are convened with the Secretaries of the States'tribal Welfare Departments to ensure timely submission of proposals for the release of funds and to speed up implementation of schemes.

5. At the State level, agencies like theTribal Advisory Council, the Project Implementation Committees of the ITDPs at the Block level and panchayat Samities monitor timely spending of funds and effective implementation of schemes.

Statement

Release and Utilisation of SCA to TSP during 2000-2001 and2001-2002.

{Rs. in lakhs)

SI No	Nameof State/U.T	2000-01		2001-02	
		Amount Released	Experxfture Reported	Amount Released	I Expendture Reported
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	A.P.	2182.94	2182.94	2732.80	1455.37
2.	Assam	2443.50	2194.25	3058.99	2499.99
3.	Bihar	1711.06	0.00.	556.56	0.00
4.	Gujarat	3139.98	3646.00	3930.91	1383.18
5.	HP.	514.05	531.61	643.53	0.00
6.	J&K	776.38	605.92	971.94	0.00
7.	Kamataka	616.13	615.88	771.33	514.22
8.	Kerala	218.63	228.24	273.70	0.00
9.	M.P.	6257.12	7024.52	7833.22	4311.14
10.	Maharashtra	2974.57	3200.00	3723.83	0.00
11.	Manipur	608.65	235.65	761.96	0.00
12.	Orissa	5188.40	4931.72	6495.30	6881.82
13.	Rajasthan	2915.24	3260.55	3649.56	1725.82
14.	Sikkim	86.28	104.10	108.02	108.02
15.	T.N.	258.27	0.00	323.32	0.00
16.	Tripura	831.57	831.57	1041.03	1033.13
17.	UP.	41.83	100.00	32.10	0.00
18.	W.B.	1759.40	1759.40	2202.57	0.00
19.	Jharkhand	3422.62	0.00	5870.24	0.00
20.	Chhattisgarh	3695.36	3620.73	4626.18	4501.51
21.	Uttaranchal	58.02	0.00	92.91	0.00
22.	A&N	233.90	130.62	230.85	102.87
23.	D&Diu	66.10	0.00	99.15	61.42
	TOTAL:	40000.00	35203.70	50030.00	24578.49